

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT – UZBEKISTAN

(June 2022)

Part I.

Name of Country: Uzbekistan

Part II.

U.S. Embassy Information

U.S. Embassy

Address: 3, Moyqo'rg'hon Street, Yunusobod district, Block 5, Tashkent, 100093

Address in local language: АКШ элчихонаси, Юнусобод – 5 квартал, Мойкурган кучаси, 3 уй, Тошкент, 100093

Phone: Country Code 998 Area Code 78 Number 120-5450

Phone number for emergencies after working hours: Country Code 998 Area Code 78 Number 120-5450

E-mail: ACSTashkent@state.gov

[State Department Country Specific Information on Uzbekistan](#)

[State Department Travel Information](#)

[Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

[Return of Remains of Deceased Americans](#)

Part III. [Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors](#)

Country Profile: Visit the State Department's website "[Background Note: Uzbekistan](#)"

Religions: Muslim 88% (mostly Sunni), Eastern Orthodox 9%, other 3%.

Religious Services available to visitors: Mosques are open for religious prayers throughout the country. All services in these mosques are in Uzbek, Tajik or Karakalpak languages.

Churches and Synagogues are available mostly in major cities and in Tashkent region. The capital has both Catholic and Russian Orthodox Churches and a Synagogue. The Catholic Church is known to have services in English language at times but the main language of services in this Church is Russian.

PART IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in Tashkent and its vicinity

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance.

1) "Black Tulip", Ceremonial Services Firm

Address: 1, Gunafsha street,

Yunusobod District, Tashkent, Uzbekistan (landmark: Minor Mosque)

Telephone: +99871-2343401, +99871-2347009

Tel/Fax: +99871-2347244

Wide range of services including providing caskets, reserving a burial spot in the local cemetery, transportation services related to the funeral, arranging for the actual burial process. Most services relate to local internment in Uzbekistan. This firm can also provide zinc coffins for shipment.

Languages: Russian and Uzbek only.

2) "Dafna" Funeral Service

Tel.: +99890-3496191; +99890-1870933; +99871-2913854; +99890-3270353

Website: dafnagrob.uz

Services in preparing and embalming bodies, providing caskets, arranging funeral services and wreaths, arranging hearses and shipping remains.

3) Republican Center of Pathology and Anatomy

Address: 11, Shifokorlar ko'chasi, Olmazor district, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Telephone: +99871-214-5011, +99871-214-5452,

Provides services in storing bodies in refrigerators (up to ten), embalming, autopsies, cosmetology services and transportation of bodies (within Tashkent city). The Center also has a mourning hall the relatives of the deceased can use for a charge for ceremonies before burial. The Center has branches in every regional center in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

4) Tashkent International Medical Clinic

38, Sarikul street, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 100105

Web: www.tashclinic.org

Telephone: +99871-291-0142, +99871-291-0726, +998778-120-1120, +99890-3273378

Fax: +99871-2912246

Services include storing (up to two bodies), body washing, autopsies, embalming and transportation of body from other regions of Uzbekistan to Tashkent city (using local service vendors). The Clinic does not post service costs and needs to be contacted directly for information on charges for services.

The prices for services vary and change often. The most accurate pricing may be obtained by contacting these institutions directly.

PART V. Profile of services available in Uzbekistan regarding preparation and shipment of remains.

1. Maximum Period Before Burial

There is no Uzbek law specifically limiting the time in which a body must be interred. The Muslim traditions dictate that the body be interred the same day or, if the death had occurred late in the day, the next day. The local laws provide for a guaranteed storage of bodies for up to two days at morgues when immediate interment is not possible due to objective reasons. This period can be extended to three days if the Next-of-Kin of the deceased have not been reached. The main law of Uzbekistan which governs matters related to internment is the "[Law on burial and funerals](#)" dated December 3, 2010, registration number 276. Due to scarcity of storage facilities and the relatively hot climate, the usual period before burial does not exceed three days. The same law mentioned above provides for the provision of a one-time financial assistance to the next-of-kin of the deceased from state funds for the purposes of timely interment. This assistance is provided from the Pension Fund under the Ministry of Finances of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

2. Embalming

Tashkent Second Medical Institute and the Republican Center of Pathology and Anatomy provide embalming services. The other service providers will also contact these institutions for embalming services. Embalming is not a widespread practice in Uzbekistan before most interments. Embalming is a required process if the body needs to be shipped out of the country.

3. Cremation

Cremation is not an option in Uzbekistan. Cremation is not practiced in Uzbekistan at all and there are no facilities that can provide this service. The body can be shipped directly to the United States for cremation or shipped to a third country, cremated and then shipped onwards to the United States.

4. Caskets and Containers

Service providers "Black Tulip" and "Dafna" listed above can provide coffins and caskets. They also can provide zinc coffins which are used for shipment of the body by air.

5. Exportation of Remains

Exportation of the body to the United States will be a costly process due to expensive air cargo tariffs. Before the body can be shipped, the set of documents listed below must be prepared. The wooden container in which a zinc coffin is placed must be sealed in an established order in presence of a customs officer. **The Consul and a doctor must also be present during the sealing process.** The customs officer will complete a document stating that the box contains only the body and nothing else. Airlines will not accept the box for shipment without such a document. The Consular Mortuary Certificate is a necessary document for this box to be allowed in the U.S. territory. The Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent completes this document.

Necessary documents to arrange for the shipment of the body via air:

- 1) Certified copy of the deceased's passport

- 2) Certified copy of the Local Death Certificate (and translation)
- 3) Letter from the Center of State Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision (original and translation)
- 4) Letter from the Bureau of Forensic Medical Expertise (original and translation)
- 5) Certificate (Act) from the Customs Official stating that only the body (no other items) was placed and sealed in a zinc coffin (original and translation)
- 6) Certificate (Act) of Embalming
- 7) Power of Attorney to the transportation company
- 8) Consular Mortuary Certificate

6. Costs

Cost may vary depending on weight, time of year and the company providing the services. Some private medical clinics in Uzbekistan do provide the service of arranging the shipment of remains to the United States. If the next-of-kin or other related person decides to handle all arrangements personally without involving any medical or insurance companies, the costs may be less.

7. Exhumation and Shipment

Exhumation will not be allowed for at least one year from the date of interment. If the interment was in soil with high humidity, the exhumation will not be allowed for three years after interment. The local sanitary-epidemiological service must give permission for this and will need the medical statement of the reason of death to make a decision. The State Prosecutor's office must also authorize exhumation. This is very hard to obtain for cases not related to criminal proceedings and forensic tests.

8. Autopsies

If infectious disease was a cause of death, an autopsy is mandatory. Autopsies can also be done based on the decision of the district prosecutor's office. Autopsies are usually done in the following cases: if death occurred due to unnatural causes, including as a result of inflicted bodily harm or suicide; if death was untimely due to unknown reasons; if the body was found; and if there is reason to suspect that death occurred as a result of medical malpractice. Family members can request autopsies in other cases and their written request will be required in order to complete an autopsy. Forensic Medical Expertise Centers, Tashkent Medical Institute, the Republican Center of Pathology and Anatomy can perform autopsies. Uzbek law requires that families contact the district police department when death occurs. If the family does not do this, the medical representative who is usually invited to document the fact of death will contact law enforcement authorities for them to determine that death occurred due to natural causes.

9. Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services

For the Muslim population, the death is announced immediately to neighbors, relatives and friends. All try to visit the grieving home the same day or the next day if death occurred late at night. The burial is almost always scheduled within 24 hours of death. A special prayer, "Janoza," is attended by all men present. Only men go to the cemetery for the funeral. Relatives and friends continue visiting the family for the next three days to support them and to also recite short prayers in the memory of the deceased. Several special remembrance events are held after 7, 20, 40 days and after a year after death. These may vary by region.

Christian residents of Uzbekistan may keep the body at home for more than a day but try to arrange for interment soon due to the weather conditions.

Local residents rarely contact commercial funeral services for assistance due to the costs involved. In most cases, all arrangements are made by relatives or the neighborhood committee (“mahalla”) employees.

10. Remarks

There are three documents that must be completed upon the death of a U. S. citizen in Uzbekistan. These documents are:

1. A death certificate from a doctor, issued at the hospital, Pathology and Anatomy Center or by an examining physician. This certificate is used by the Civil Acts Registration Office (ZAGS) to issue the official death certificate and is kept in ZAGS' files.
2. A death certificate issued by the Civil Acts Registration Office (ZAGS) which has jurisdiction over the foreigner's place of residence based on the doctor's certificate. This office will ask for a certified (not notarized) translation of the deceased person's passport; therefore, this translation must be done before applying to the Civil Acts Registration Office.
3. In case the body needs to be shipped: A Certificate from the City Sanitary and Epidemiological Station (CSES) based on the death certificate from ZAGS and an official request from the Embassy. This certificate is required by customs for clearance. Contact telephones: +99871-248-44-60, +99871-248-44-68 (duty phone); +99871-248-12-43.